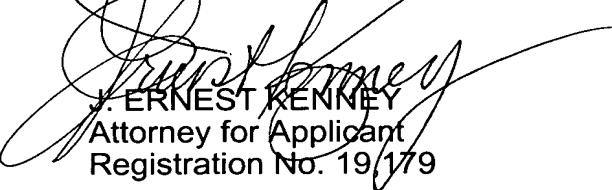


International Application No. PCT/EP03/14548
Attorney Docket: THIE3020/JEK

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to place them in better form for U.S. examination. Examination of the application as-amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC



J. ERNEST KENNEY
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 19179

Customer 23364

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane - 4th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314-1176
Telephone: (703) 683-0500
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

Date: June 3, 2005

S:\Producer\jek\THIE3020\prelim amend.wpd